IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Item #1

Replace paragraph starting on page 2, line 26 through page 3, line 6 with the following paragraph:

In addition to lifting slings being damaged by excessive forces, crushing, pinching, binding, stretching, and ultraviolet light exposure, dirt and other contaminants can also cause damage to the lifting sling core materials. In this regard, dirt and contaminants can increase the abrasion among the lifting slings core materials and or core fibers. As such, the increased abrasion among the core materials can cause premature degradation of the lifting sling, and or result in a catastrophic failure of the lifting sling during use. Dirt and contaminants introduced into the core materials, causing an increase in abrasion of the core materials, [~~is~~] are particularly damaging to nylon types and polyester types of lifting slings.

Item #2

Replace paragraph starting on page 3, line 23 through page 4, line 2 with the following paragraph:

Overstretching a lifting sling can also permanently damage the lifting sling and rendered it unsuitable for use. In this regard, applying a load to a lifting sling beyond the lifting slings rated safe limits can cause the lifting sling to stretch. Stresses resulting in overstretching of a lifting sling are particularly common and can permanently damage nylon and polyester types of lifting sling materials. Once over stretched the lifting sling

cannot be repaired. In addition, once over stretched the lifting sling can no longer carry the maximum load for which the lifting sling is rated.

Item #3

Replace paragraph on page 4, lines 20-24 with the following paragraph:

In addition to keeping dirt, chemicals, and other contaminants trapped and concealed within the lifting sling core materials, the lifting sling cover or sheath can require an extensive manufacturing process to fabricate. In this regard, covers or sheaths can require extensive stitching or other fabricating steps to secure the shape and fit of the cover or sheath [~~into shape and fitted~~] around the lifting sling core materials.

Item #4

Replace paragraph starting on page 4, line 26 through page 5, line 5 with the following paragraph:

Furthermore, lifting sling covers and sheaths are designed to cover the lifting sling core materials in a loose fitting fashion. This loose fitting fashion tends to cause the covers or sheaths to slide back and forth over the lifting sling core materials. The ability of the covers or sheaths to slide back-and-forth over the lifting sling core materials can result in the lifting sling's inability to grip the load and otherwise promote slippage of the load. Shifting loads can be an extreme danger and as such a lifting sling that has an inability to reliably grip the load and otherwise minimize slippage of the load is of little value and is a safety risk.

Item #5

Replace paragraph on page 5, lines 7-13 with the following paragraph:

Concerns of safety, damage, and catastrophic failure of the lifting sling has given rise to numerous safety recommendations in the industry. Such safety recommendations include employing regular inspections of the lifting slings, as well as promoting other safeguards such as cleaning the lifting slings regularly. Safety, damage, and catastrophic failure of [~~the~~] lifting slings has also given rise to attempts to protect the lifting sling from excessive abrasion, and other crushing, or pinching forces, as well as [~~and~~] other types of traumas by utilizing covers or sheaths.

Item #6

Replace paragraph on page 5, lines 15-19 with the following paragraph:

Attempts in the lifting sling industry to better manage the operational capabilities and suitability for use of the lifting sling has seen the use of optical inspection methods aimed at determining the suitability for use of the lifting sling. Such methods have seen the use of fiber optic cables that require a flashlight or light source and a skilled individual to evaluate test results as one way of determining the suitability for use of a lifting sling.

Item #7

Replace paragraph starting on page 5, line 27 through page 6, line 4 with the following paragraph:

In actuality there is little correlation between damage to a fiber-optic cable located in proximity to lifting sling core materials and damage to the lifting sling core materials themselves. Furthermore, fiber optic cable tests do not take into consideration dirt, chemicals, heat, ultraviolet light, and other destructive conditions as well as excessive

loading and stretching of the lifting sling core materials, all of which can degrade the lifting sling and or cause catastrophic failure under load of the lifting sling.

Item #8

Replace paragraph starting on page 6, line 24 through page 7, line 2 with the following paragraph:

There is also a long felt need in the lifting sling industry for a better way to manufacture multi-core lifting slings. In this regard, quite often a multi-core lifting sling is fabricated with a series of single core members held into position by a stitched or sewn cover or sheath. As such, inspection of the multi-core lifting sling elements is difficult at best and the current preferred structure, of sewn covers or sheaths, precipitates the collection of dirt, chemicals, and contaminants which can prematurely degrade the lifting sling, hide [~~the~~] damage, and or lead to potentially catastrophic lifting sling failure under load.

Item #9

Replace paragraph on page 7, lines 4-6 with the following paragraph:

There is a need for a multi-core lifting sling that, while sealing dirt, chemicals and contaminants away from the lifting sling core materials, also binds a plurality of single core members into a superior multi-core lifting sling structure.

Item #10

Replace paragraph on page 8, lines 15-23 with the following paragraph:

The present invention also relates to improving the operational condition, and or suitability for use, of the lifting sling, by completely sealing the lifting sling core materials with the polyurea elastomer, polyurethane, or hybrid polyurethane polyurea elastomer coating material. One advantage of sealing [~~the~~] lifting [~~slings~~] sling core materials can include minimizing contaminates from entering the core materials. In this regard, minimizing contaminates entering the core materials, and or reduce the possibility of the core materials corroding improves the operational condition, and or suitability for use of the lifting sling by reducing the abrasive effects between the lifting sling core fibers, and between the lifting sling core materials and the lifted items.

Item #11

Replace paragraph on page 9, lines 16-17 with the following paragraph:

coating both the lifting sling core and cover or sheath, where the cover or sheath [~~are~~] is fixed and not moveable over the lifting sling core;

Item #12

Replace paragraph on page 12, lines 1-6 with the following paragraph:

The present invention also relates to utilizing an electronic system to monitor and optionally record lifting sling use data. Such lifting sling use data might include lifting dynamics. In addition, such monitoring can be used to determine and or detect fatigue, and or be used to determine when to remove the lifting sling from service based on certain criteria. Such criteria can include use, compromise, and or exposure of the lifting sling to damaging conditions, defect detections, and or other criteria.

Item #13

Replace paragraph on page 16, lines 19-21 with the following paragraph:

Figure 12 there is shown a method of determining the operational condition, and or suitability for use of a lifting sling for use by inspection of a safety indicator or electronic system routine 6000.

Item #14

Replace paragraph on page 23, lines 19-28 with the following paragraph:

In an exemplary embodiment, for example and not limitation, the polyurea elastomer, polyurethane, or hybrid polyurethane – polyurea elastomer coating 110 can be applied in one or more coats of one or more continuous or variable thickness layers. A preferred thickness on lifting sling materials can range from about 0.5 millimeters to approximately 20 millimeters, more preferably from about 1 millimeter to approximately 10 millimeters, and most preferably from about 3 millimeters to approximately 5 millimeters. The thickness may vary across the lifting sling in a random manner or according to a predetermined pattern (for example thicker in certain portions of the lifting sling). In a plurality of exemplary embodiments thickness of up to 2,000 millimeters is possible.

Item #15

Replace paragraph on page 25, lines 7-14 with the following paragraph:

Another advantage of coating material 110 being of the polyurea elastomer, polyurethane, or hybrid polyurethane – polyurea elastomer type can be that such a coating 110 can improve the operational condition, and or suitability [~~of~~] for use of the lifting

sling 108 by reducing the abrasive forces between the lifting sling core 102 materials and the lifted items. In this regard, the coating 110 being tenaciously bonded to the core 102 offers reduced slippage and superior gripping surface to protect the core materials 102 and resist scuffing, cracking, and other abrasive forces that can result during lifting sling use.

Item #16

Replace paragraph on page 33, lines 4-9 with the following paragraph:

As such, a multi-core lifting sling 126 has been formed by using [~~of~~] a plurality of lifting sling cores 108A, 108B, and 108C each previously coated with the elastomer coating and then positioned to form a multi-core sling 126. Where an additional coat of the elastomer forms the multi-core lifting sling 126, which tenaciously bonds and or fuses (124A, 124B, 124C, and 124D) the individual lifting slings 108A, 108B, and 108C together.

Item #17

Replace paragraph on page 36, lines 4-9 with the following paragraph:

In a plurality of exemplary embodiments, for example and not limitation, the thickness of the coating material 110 can be applied to the lifting sling core material 102 in a predetermined pattern to achieve the desired operational properties of the lifting sling 108. Such predetermined pattern can regulate the thickness of the coating material 110 in such a manner as to apply more or less coating material to certain portions of the lifting sling.

Item #18

Replace paragraph on page 43, lines 12-19 with the following paragraph:

In this exemplary embodiment three separate core fiber members 102A, 102B, and 102C have been shown. In a plurality of other exemplary embodiments a plurality of more than or less than three separate core fiber members can be utilized. Furthermore, safety core 130 can be interchangeably [~~seem~~] seam located, perimeter located, centrally located, and or located in other positions within the multi-core lifting sling 126. In this regard, the location of the safety cores can be chosen to best enable accurate monitoring, indicating, manufacturing of the multi-core lifting sling 126, and or as may be required and or desired in a plurality of exemplary embodiments.

Item #19

Replace paragraph on page 46, lines 1-10 with the following paragraph:

With respect to Figures 2G and 2H, in this exemplary embodiment three separate span members 108A, 126A, 108B, 126B, and 108C, 126C have been shown. In a plurality of other exemplary embodiments a plurality of more than or less than three separate lifting sling span members can be utilized. Furthermore, safety core 130 can be interchangeably [~~seem~~] seam located, perimeter located, centrally located, and or located in other positions within the lifting sling 108, 126. In this regard, the location of the safety cores can be chosen to best enable accurate monitoring, indicating, manufacturing of the lifting sling 108, 126, and or as may be required and or desired in a plurality of exemplary embodiments.

Item #20

Replace paragraph on page 46, lines 20-24 with the following paragraph:

In an exemplary embodiment an identification tag or plate can also be molded or otherwise fastened to the [~~to the~~] lifting sling. In this regard, an identification tag, in accordance with applicable industry practice, standards, laws, or otherwise, can be secured [~~my~~] by molding or [~~fasten~~] fastening the identification tag in place on the lifting sling with the aid of the coating material.

Item #21

Replace paragraph starting on page 46, line 26 through page 47, line 3 with the following paragraph:

The electronic system 500 can provide user information and data communication functionality by way of the various interface features 542, communication features 544, and or processing features 540. Such user interface features can include, for example and not limitation, a graphical user interface 504, a keypad /touch pad/general purpose input output interface 506, a display/indicators/user input 508, and or other similar, suitable, desired and or [~~desired~~] required user interface features.

Item #22

Replace paragraph on page 47, lines 12-16 with the following paragraph:

In an exemplary embodiment an identification tag or plate can also be molded or otherwise fastened to the to the lifting sling. In this regard, an identification tag, in accordance with applicable industry practice, standards, laws, or otherwise, can be secured [~~my~~] by molding or [~~fasten~~] fastening the identification tag in place on the lifting sling with the aid of the coating material.

Item #23

Replace paragraph starting on page 50, line 23 through page 51, line 2 with the following paragraph:

Referring to Figure 3C there is shown a multi-span lifting sling [~~have~~] having separate single cores in mid-span of the lifting sling lifting an object. As an example and not a limitation, Figure 3C illustrates how the multi-span configuration of the lifting sling 108, 126 can be positioned on object 200 to distribute the force during the lift across a larger cross sectional area of the lifted object 200. In this regard, forces on the lifted object 200 resultant from its own weight pushing down on the lifting sling are distributed over a larger surface area. The distribution of forces across a larger surface area can prevent the object 200 from being damaged or crushed during the lift.

Item #24

Replace paragraph on page 54, lines 1-25 with the following paragraph:

The plurality of data communication interface (514, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, and 538) can include a plurality of devices and interfaces to effect data communication with other data communicating and or data processing resources. Such devices and interfaces can include wired and wireless wide area networking (WAN) and local area networking (LAN) data communications and interfaces. Such WAN and LAN data communications can be by way of proprietary wireless standards and protocols, Institute of Electronics Engineers (IEEE) wireless protocols and standards, ETHERNET, FIREWIRE, 3COM devices, wireless standards and protocols, MOTIENT DATATAC networks, VERIZON networks, CINGULAR networks, SPRINT networks, AT&T networks, SIERRA WIRELESS devices, a WISMO device, wireless standards, and protocols wireless application protocol (WAP), CDPD, PCS, WCDMA, TDMA, TDD, [~~GSM,~~] 1XRTT,

CDMA, CDMA 2000, GSM, 1X 3G, general packet radio service (GPRS), enhanced data rates for global evolution (EDGE), TDMA, 2G/2.5G type communication ('G' is an abbreviation for generation – for example, 2G is second generation technologies), 3G and 4G type communication, infrared data communication (IRDA), IEEE 802.11'x' ('x' meaning all types and kinds of 802.11 standards and protocols including 'a', 'b', and 'g'), WI-FI, INTEL PRO/WIRELESS 5000 LAN, BLUE TOOTH compliant standards and protocols, small device microwave, spread spectrum, 2.4GHZ, 5GHZ, 900MHZ, 433MHZ, a single frequency transceiver, a dual frequency transceiver, Internet service provider (ISP), a TCP/IP connection, a PPP, SLIP, or SOCKET layer connection, a RAS connection, by utilizing wireless Internet standards or protocols, or other Internet connection points or connection types or other suitable wireless standards, frequencies, or protocols. Other wired data communications can include serial, TTL, RS232, RS422, and RS485 communications as well as universal serial bus (USB) and or other similar or suitable types and kinds of data communication interfaces.

Item #25

Replace paragraph on page 56, lines 5-16 with the following paragraph:

Referring to Figures 5 and 6 there is illustrated the data connectivity between data processing devices, the lifting sling 108, 126 having an electronic system 500, and or a global network. Figure 5 illustrates electronic system 500 data communication with a plurality of data communicating devices, and an electronic system 500 data communicating over a global network to remote global network based data processing resources. In an exemplary embodiment, electronic system 500 can data communicate directly with data processing devices such as wireless phone 206, PC 208, a global network data processing resource having data communication access over a global network 210 can also be referred to as the Internet 210, PDA 204, and or data processing

device 202. Figure 6 shows a plurality of data communicating devices effectuating data communication between the plurality of data communicating devices and or over a global network.

Item #26

Replace paragraph on page 58, lines 4-8 with the following paragraph:

In block 1008 the polyurea elastomer, polyurethane, or the hybrid polyurethane-polyurea elastomer coating is applied to the lifting sling core materials 102. Optionally, additional coats of the elastomer can be applied. The thickness may vary across the lifting sling in a random manner or according to a predetermined pattern (for example thicker in certain portion of the lifting sling).

Item #27

Replace paragraph on page 62, lines 1-6 with the following paragraph:

In block 3006 selectively the temperature of the plurality of lifting sling core materials 102 and or the plurality of lifting slings 108 can be adjusted. In this regard, regulating the temperature of the plurality of lifting sling core materials 102, and or the plurality of lifting slings 108 prior to coating can [~~resulted~~] result in a more even, consistent, and robust coating that can maximize the bond strength and integrity of the final product. Processing then moves to block 3008.

Item #28

Replace paragraph starting on page 62, line 22 through page 63, line 2 with the following paragraph:

In block 3010 the polyurea elastomer, polyurethane, or the hybrid polyurethane-polyurea elastomer coating is applied to the plurality of lifting sling materials 102, and or the plurality of lifting slings 108. In particular, a seaming coat is applied between each of the plurality of lifting sling core materials 102, and or the plurality of lifting slings 108 as a way of tenaciously bonding or fusing the cores together. Optionally, additional coating of the elastomer can be added to the lifting sling materials 102, and or the plurality of lifting slings 108 as may be required and or desired. The thickness may vary across the lifting sling in a random manner or according to a predetermined pattern (for example thicker in certain portion of the lifting sling).

Item #29

Replace paragraph starting on page 64, line 26 through page 65, line 2 with the following paragraph:

In block 4006 selectively the temperature of the lifting sling core materials 102 can be adjusted. In this regard, regulating the temperature of the lifting sling core materials 102 prior to coating can [~~resulted~~] result in a more even, consistent, and robust coating that can maximize bond strength and integrity of the final product. Processing then moves to block 4008.

Item #30

Replace paragraph on page 65, lines 19-22 with the following paragraph:

In block 4010 the polyurea elastomer, polyurethane, or the hybrid polyurethane-polyurea elastomer coating is applied to the composite safety core 130 and lifting sling core materials 102. Optionally, additional coating of the elastomer can be applied as may be required and or desired.